

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: AppaRao Mukkamala, MD, President
Michigan State Medical Society

RE: MSMS Position on Stem Cell Research

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) is comprised of more than 15,000 physicians who are diverse in their specialty training and their geographic location. MSMS has carefully monitored developments at the state and federal levels regarding the use of stem cells for research purposes.

Additionally, MSMS has helped to facilitate considerable discussion on the topic of stem cell use by making it the subject of the 2006 MSMS Bioethics Conference. Individual physicians, much like the general public, have diverse opinions about the appropriateness of the use of stem cells for research purposes. Frequently, subjects of this nature are brought before the MSMS House of Delegates which is the policy making body of the organization.

The issue of stem cell use was first brought to the 2003 MSMS House of Delegates and revisited in 2007. With respect to stem cell use, MSMS has the following policy:

MSMS supports federal and state policies that permit use of embryonic stem cells and somatic cell nuclear transfer in basic and clinical research including funding for such research based on its scientific merit.

However, the policy also includes an additional component meant to coincide with this statement of support for stem cell research. MSMS also maintains the following:

MSMS supports laws and governmental policies that prohibit human reproductive cloning.

MSMS has concluded that these two policies provide a framework that allows researchers to explore the promise of stem cells, while establishing a reasonable ethical boundary.